

2008 Awards

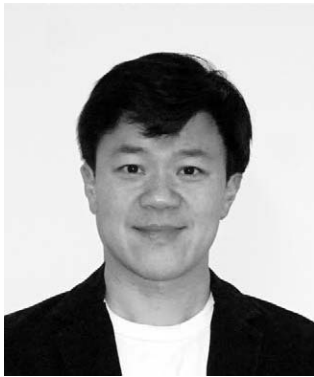
The following people have been recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions and service to science. The SSR is proud to honor these people.

2008 Awards Committee: *Robert A. Cushman, Chair; Charlie Chaffin, Andrea Cupp, Michelle Garcia, Steve Hammes, Fred Karsch, Kwan Hee Kim, Carolyn Komar, P. Prabhakara Reddi, Cheryl Rosenfeld, and Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang.*

SSR New Investigator Award

Dr. Humphrey H.-C. Yao

(Supported by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Fund)



Dr. Humphrey H.-C. Yao is the recipient of the SSR New Investigator Award for 2008. Dr. Yao completed his Ph.D. degree in 1999 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, under the mentorship of Dr. Janice Bahr. Dr. Yao was an outstanding graduate student publishing seminal discoveries in five papers in *Biology of Reproduction* and an author on four book chapters and review articles. He won the Trainee Research Award at the

1998 SSR meeting. From 2000 to 2002, he had a very productive postdoctoral training under the capable guidance of Dr. Blanche Capel at Duke University.

In 2003, Dr. Yao was offered a faculty position in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois through the Postgenomics Program. This Program targeted particularly bright and productive young scientists. Needless to say, the members of the reproductive biology faculty were most pleased to have Dr. Yao return to the campus as an assistant professor. Dr. Yao quickly

established an independent research program focused on sex determination and gonadal development. In 2004, he was awarded a two-year March of Dimes Starter Scholar Research Award and in January 2005 he was awarded a five-year RO1 NIH grant. He currently has four grant proposals pending. As a new faculty member, he attracted outstanding and productive students to his laboratory. In the past two years, three-four of his students were among the SSR Trainee Research Award Finalists. This past year, one of the students won first place in the poster presentations and two students won second and fourth in the oral presentations. The success of these graduate students is definitely the result of Dr. Yao's mentoring. During 2000–2007, Dr. Yao published 10 research articles in high-impact journals, in addition to eight book chapters and review articles. He was the recipient of awards as a postdoctoral fellow, and now as a faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, he has received two prestigious research awards given by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Yao has been an invited speaker at national and international meetings and has given seminars at top research universities. He was an invited presenter at a minisymposium entitled "Development and Function of the Male and Female Ducts" at the 2007 SSR meeting where he spoke on "Interactions Between Androgens and Local Signaling Molecules in Wolffian Duct Morphogenesis." Dr. Yao is also on the Board of Reviewing Editors for *Biology of Reproduction*, serves as an ad hoc reviewer for many journals, and has been a faculty member of the annual *Frontiers in Reproduction* course taught at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, since 2003. All of these above citations indicate that Dr. Yao is truly an outstanding young investigator and deserving recipient of the 2007 New Investigator Award.